

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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FOL REPEAT MEXICO 10464 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO

CIUDAD JUAREZ GUADALAJARA HERMOSILLO

MATAMOROS MAZATLAN MERIDA MONTERREY NUEVO LAREDO

TIJUANA DEC 13

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 10464

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MX, XM

SUBJECT: SUGAR: LATIN AMERICAN SUGAR CONSULTATIONS

DEPT PLS PASS ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

REF: A) MEXICO 10030 (NOTAL); B) STATE 272385 (NOTAL)

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1. EMBOFFS CALLED DECEMBER 13 ON MEXICAN SUGAR PRODUCERS'

UNION (UNPASA) OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS INTER ALIA RECENT LATIN AMERICAN SUGAR CONSULTATIONS. UNPASA OFFICIAL (ERNESTO RAMIREZ SOLANO, ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR) MADE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

2. RAMIREZ INDICATED THAT MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DELEGATES FROM SOME 20 COUNTRIES (SEE REF A FOR COMPLETE LIST) WORKED HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER TO FIND WAYS FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN EXPORT SALES OF SUGAR. MAIN PURPOSE OF INITIAL MEETING WAS TO "INSTITUTIONALIZE" CONCEPT OF LA COOPERATION IN SUGAR MARKETING, AND TO EXCHANGE STATISTICS ON PRODUCTION AND PRICING.

3. AS NOTED REF A NEXT MEETING OF PRODUCERS WILL BE HELD APRIL 1975 IN SANTO DOMINGO, WHERE IT IS HOPED THERE WILL BE 22, VICE 20, PARTICIPANTS, WITH THE ADDITION OF HAITI AND BOLIVIA WHICH FOR "INTERNAL REASONS" WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND MEXICAN MEETINGS, ACCORDING TO RAMIREZ.

4. ONE RESULT OF MEXICO MEETING WAS CREATION OF PERMANENT EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR LA SUGAR PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION, WITH RAMIREZ SERVING AS DE FACTO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. IN ADDITION TO ORGANIZING APRIL MEETING, HE IS ALSO PREPARING QUESTIONNAIRES ON PRODUCTION, PRICES, AND MARKETING PLANS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO GROUP MEMBERS.

5. RAMIREZ DENIES THAT NEW ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS "CARTEL" AS HAS BEEN ALLEGED, HE NOTES IN US PRESS. HE STRESSES THAT ORGANIZATION IS SIMPLY AIMED AT EXCHANGE OF USEFUL INFORMATION ON MARKET SUPPLIES AND DEMAND FOR SUGAR.

6. TURNING TO MEXICAN SCENE, RAMIREZ INDICATED THAT NOVEMBER 1974-OCTOBER 1975 SUGAR PRODUCTION WOULD AMOUNT TO SOME 2.9 MILLION TONS (OF RAW SUGAR), AND THAT EXPORTS WOULD BE ABOUT 18-20 PERCENT OF TOTAL, I.E. ABOUT 550,000 TONS. HE SAID THAT GOM POLICY (UNPASA IS GOVERNMENT AGENCY) IS TO LIMIT TOTAL SUGAR EXPORTS TO MAXIMUM OF 20 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION.

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